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sider it disgraceful to their ancestry. But facts are always of interest in the history of any people, however civilized they may become.

The natives of most of the Polynesian islands, I believe, are willing and capable of the highest grade of improvement in civilization, under proper treatment by nations of greater power and higher mental attainment.

—:o:—

GRAVE MOUNDS IN NORTH CAROLINA AND EAST TENNESSEE.

BY DR. CYRUS THOMAS.

BELIEVING that the description of a new class of grave mounds, recently found in North Carolina and East Tennessee, may be of interest to the readers of the *AMERICAN NATURALIST*, I send, by permission of the chief of the Bureau of Ethnology, the following extract from my report of the mound explorations of the past season.

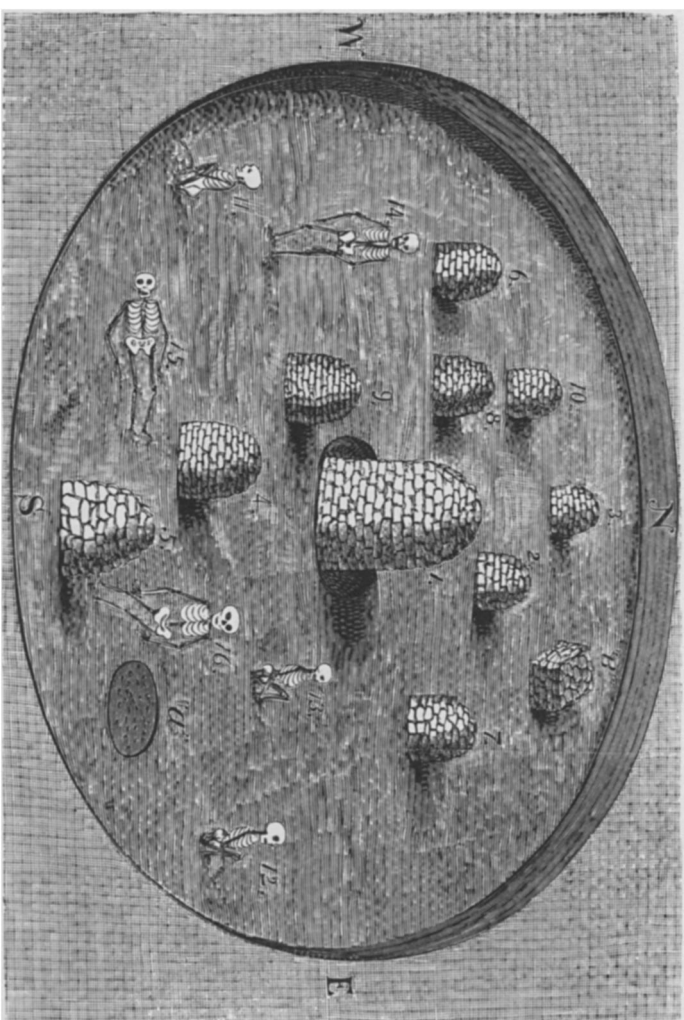
"The Nelson Mound."—This mound, so insignificant in outward appearance as scarcely to attract any notice, was located (for it no longer exists) on the farm of Rev. T. F. Nelson, in Caldwell county, N. C., on the bottom land of the Yadkin, about one hundred yards from the river bank. It was almost a true circle in outline, thirty-eight feet in diameter, but not exceeding at any point eighteen inches in height. The thorough excavation made revealed the fact that the builders of the mound had first dug a circular pit, with perpendicular margin, to the depth of three feet, and thirty-eight feet in diameter, then deposited their dead in the manner hereafter shown, and afterwards covered them over, raising a slight mound above the pit.

A plan of the pit, drawn at the time (after the removal of the dirt), showing the stone graves and skeletons, is given in Plate VIII.

The walled graves or vaults and altar-shaped mass were built of water-worn boulders and clay or earth merely sufficient to hold them in place.

No. 1, a stone grave or vault standing exactly in the center of the pit. In this case, a small circular hole, a little over three feet in diameter and extending down three feet below the bottom of the large pit, had been dug, the body or skeleton placed perpendicularly upon its feet and the wall built up around it from

PLATE VIII.



Appearance of Rev. T. F. Nelson Mound, after excavation.

the bottom of the hole, converging, after a height of four feet was reached, so as to be covered at the top by a single soapstone rock of moderate size. On the top of the head of the skeleton, and immediately under the capstone of the vault, were found several plates of silver mica which had evidently been cut with some rude implement. Although the bones were much decayed, yet they were retained in position by the dirt which filled the vault, an indication that the flesh had been removed before burial, and the vault filled with dirt as it was built up.

Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, although walled around in a similar manner, were in a sitting posture on the bottom of the pit. In the grave of No. 2 was found a polished celt; in that of No. 3 a single discoidal stone; in that of No. 6 two polished celts, and immediately over No. 9 a pitted stone.

Nos. 11, 12 and 13 are three skeletons in a squatting posture with no wall around them, and unaccompanied by relics of any kind.

Nos. 14 and 15 are two unenclosed skeletons lying horizontally at full length. With the former some pieces of broken soapstone pipes were found, and with the latter one polished celt.

No. 16, an unenclosed squatter, was of unusually large size, not less than seven feet high when living. Near the mouth was an uninjured soapstone pipe; the legs were extended in a south-east direction upon a bed of burnt earth.

The faces of all the squatting skeletons were turned away from the standing central one.

At "a" was found a considerable quantity of black paint in little lumps which appear to have been molded in the hull of some nut. At "B" was a cubical mass of water-worn boulders, built up solidly and symmetrically, twenty-four inches long, eighteen inches wide and eighteen inches high, but with no bones, specimens of art, coal, ashes, or indications of fire on or around it. On the contrary, many of the stones of the vaults and the earth immediately around them bore unmistakable evidences of fire; in fact the heat in some cases left its mark on the bones of the enclosed skeletons, another indication that the flesh had been removed before burial, either by previous burial or otherwise.

Scattered through the dirt which filled the pit were small pieces of pottery and charcoal. The bottom and sides of the pit were so distinctly marked that they could be traced without difficulty.

This mound stood about seventy-five yards south of a triangular burial-pit described elsewhere.

"*The Jones Mound.*"—This mound, situated on the farm of Mr. W. D. Jones in the same county, was found, upon investigation, to be similar in form and construction to that just described. It was circular, thirty-two feet in diameter and but one foot in

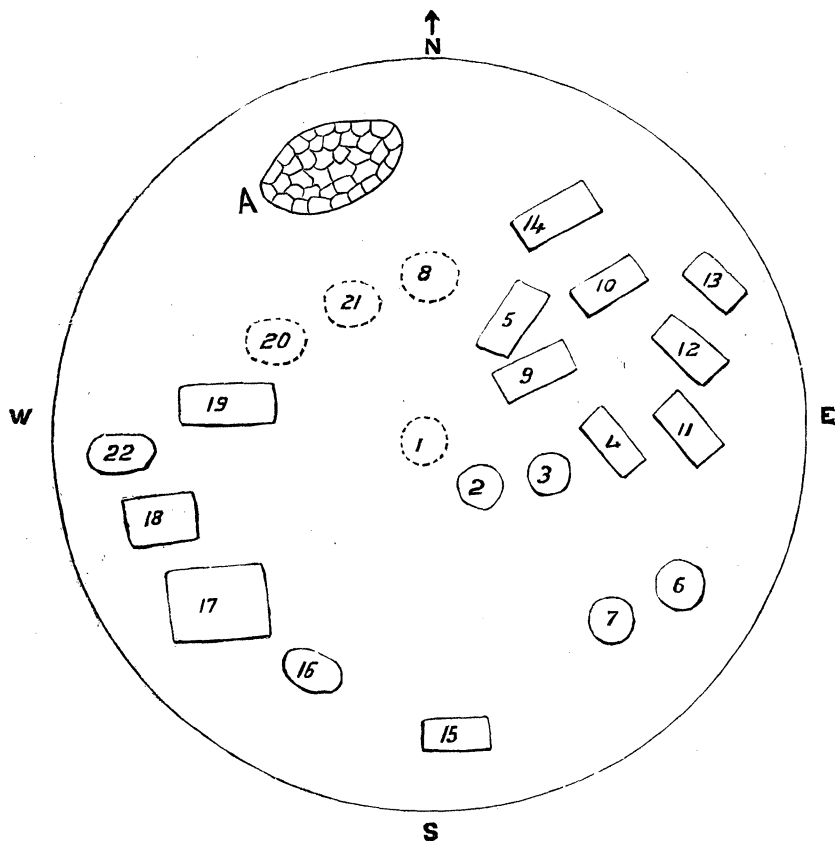


FIG. 1.—W. D. Jones Mound, Caldwell county, N. C.

height; the pit was also circular, thirty-two feet in diameter and three feet deep. The bottom in this case was of clay which had been baked hard by fire to the depth of two or three inches.

In this mound were found twenty-five skeletons and one stone heap, the relative positions of which are shown in Fig. 1.

No. 1. A "squatter," walled in with water-worn stones; the face turned toward the west; no relics.

No. 2. Sitting with the face toward the center; two polished celts at the feet, and immediately in front of the face a cylinder of hard gray mortar (not burned), about five inches long and two inches in diameter with a hole through one end.

No. 3. Sitting, with the face toward the center; several polished celts at the feet.

No. 4. Horizontal, head southeast, several celts at the feet.

No. 5. Horizontal, head toward the center; several celts at the feet.

No. 6. Facing the center, sitting; shell beads around the neck, a *Unio* shell on top of the head with the concave surface down, a "conch shell" (*Pyrula perversa*) in front of the face, and celts at the feet.

No. 7. Sitting, facing the center, celts at the feet.

No. 8. Very large, lying on the left side, legs partially drawn up, walled in with boulders; no implements.

No. 9. Horizontal, face down, head toward the center, celts and discoidal stones at the feet, and a pot resting, mouth down, upon the head.

No. 10. Horizontal, face up, feet toward the center, pot resting on the face, stone implements at the feet.

No. 11. Horizontal, head south-east, arms extended and a bracelet of copper and shell beads (alternating) around the neck; face up with a food cup (without handle) at the right side of the head.

No. 12. Horizontal, face up, head south-east, shell beads around the neck, a hook or crescent-shaped piece of copper on the breast and a soapstone pipe near the face. One hand near each side of the head, each grasping small conical copper ornaments (ear drops) and a small bunch of hair. Was this individual, possibly a female, buried alive?

No. 13. Horizontal, on the back, head south-east, copper and shell beads around the neck and wrists, a hook or crescent-shaped piece of copper on the breast, a food cup (with handle) lying on its side with the mouth close to the face, a pipe near the mouth and two celts over the head.

No. 14. Horizontal, lying on the back, head north-east, arms extended, each hand resting on a shell which had evidently been engraved, though the figures were almost totally obliterated.

No. 15. Horizontal, on the back, head west, knees drawn up, stone implements at the feet.

No. 16. Too much decayed to determine the position.

No. 17. Four skeletons in one grave, horizontal, heads toward the east and large rocks lying on the legs below the knees; no implements.

No. 18. Two skeletons in one grave, heads west, faces down, knees drawn up; no implements.

No. 20. Sitting, with face toward the east, walled in, a large rock lying on the feet (though this may have fallen from the wall); no implements.

No. 21. Sitting, walled in, over the head, but under the cap-stone of the vault, a handful of flint arrow-heads.

No. 22. Doubled up with the head between the feet.

"A." A solid mass of boulders, oval-shaped, thirty-two inches long, twenty-two inches wide and twenty-four inches high, resting on the bottom of the pit. No ashes or other indications of fire about it.

Fragments of pottery, mica, galena, charcoal, red and black paint and stone chips were found scattered in small quantities through the earth which filled the pit. All the celts were more or less polished.

"*The Lenoir Burial Pit.*"—This is a circular burial pit similar to those described, but level on the surface. It is on the farm of Mr. R. T. Lenoir, same county. A diagram is given in Fig. 2. Diameter twenty-seven feet, depth three and a half feet, almost a perfect circle, sides nearly perpendicular. The dirt in this case, as in the others, was all thrown out.

No. 1. A bed of charred or rather burnt bones, occupying a space three feet long, two feet wide and about one foot deep. "The bones were so thoroughly burned that it was impossible to determine whether they were human or animal." Beneath this bed the yellow sand was baked to the depth of two or three inches. Under the bones was a shell gorget.

No. 2. A skeleton in a sitting posture facing north-east, a pipe near the mouth and a polished celt over the head.

No. 3. Sitting, facing east, with shell beads around the neck and also around the arms just below the shoulders.

No. 4. Horizontal, on the back, head east and resting on the concave surface of an engraved shell, "conch shell" (*Pyrula perversa*), at the side of the head, and copper and shell beads around the neck.

No. 5. Horizontal, head north-east, shell beads around the neck and two discoidal stones and one celt at the feet.

No. 6. A communal grave containing at least twenty-five skeletons, in two tiers, buried without any apparent regularity as to direction or relative position. Thirteen of the twenty-five were "flat-heads"—"that is, the heads running back instead of up in the ordinary way."

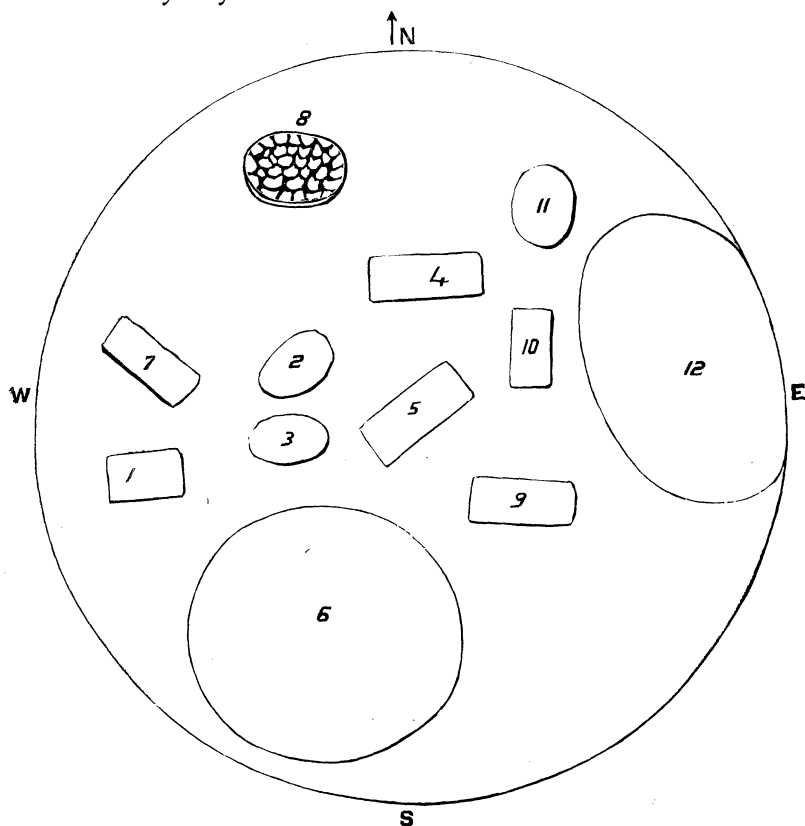


FIG. 2.—R. T. Lenoir Burial Pit.

Scattered through this grave, between and above the skeletons, were polished celts, discoidal stones, shells, mica, galena, fragments of pottery and one whole pot. Around the neck and wrists of some of the skeletons were also shell beads. There may have been more than twenty-five individuals buried here, this, however, being the number of skulls observed.

No. 7. Horizontal, on the left side, head north-east; no implements.

No. 8. An irregular layer of water-worn stones about four feet square. On top was a bed of charcoal three or four inches thick, on and partially embedded in which were three skeletons, but showing no indications of having been in the fire. Scattered over these were discoidal stones, one small saucer-shaped dish, shells (one of which is engraved), pipes, shell beads and pieces of pottery.

No. 9. A grave containing three skeletons, lying horizontally on their backs and side by side; the outer ones with their heads east and the middle one with the head west; no implements.

No. 10. Horizontal, on the right side, head north, with stone implements in front of the face.

No. 11. Doubled up, top of the head south, shell beads around the neck and celts at the feet.

No. 12. A grave containing seventeen skeletons, seven of which had flat heads, two of the number children. Two of the adult heads were resting on engraved shells.

In this grave were found four pots and two food cups, the handle of one representing an owl's head and that of the other an eagle's head. One of the small pots was inside a larger one. Scattered among the skeletons were shell beads, polished celts, discoidal stones, paint, &c. None of the skeletons were enclosed in stone graves.

For the purpose of comparison I will now give the description of a single mound found on the bank of the Holston river, Sullivan county, East Tennessee. It is circular in form, thirty-eight feet in diameter and five feet high; on the top was a pine stump fourteen inches in diameter, the tree having been cut down twenty-five years ago. This mound differed from those described in having no pit below it; but in it, built on the natural surface of the ground, was a circular wall of cobble stones, three feet high, enclosing a space fourteen feet in diameter. Inside of this were twelve stone graves similar to those shown in Plate VIII, one of them in the center and the other eleven equally spaced around near the wall, as shown in Fig. 3.

The surface of the area enclosed by the circular wall was covered to the depth of three inches with charcoal and the graves built on this layer.

Each grave contained a single sitting skeleton; around the neck of the central one were shell beads, and near the mouth a

finely polished pipe of green syenite; no relics were found in any of the other graves.

It is only necessary to add that these mounds and burial pits were opened by the regular assistants of the Bureau of Ethnology, and that all the articles mentioned, except the skeletons, are now in the National Museum. Some of the skulls have also been received, but most of the skeletons were so badly decayed that when exposed to the air they crumbled to pieces.

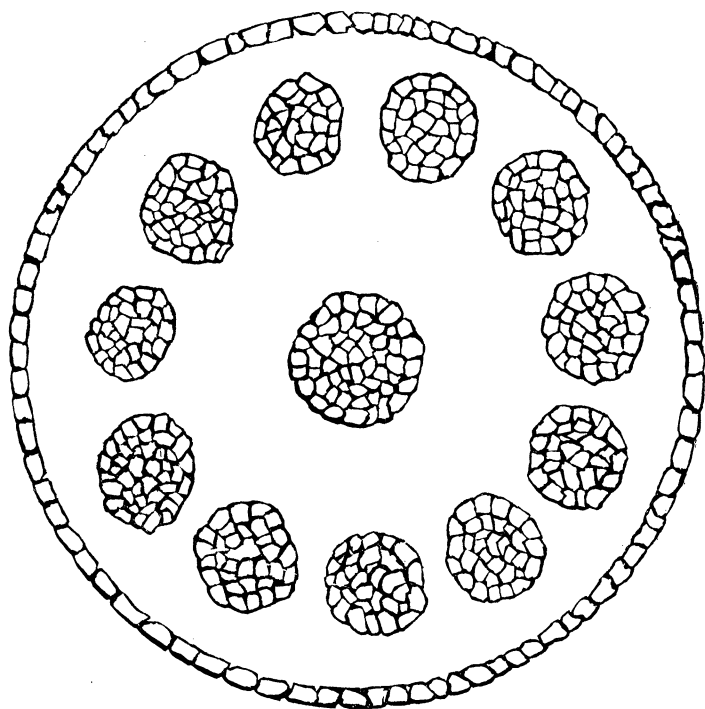


FIG. 3.—Mound on Holston river, Sullivan county, Tenn.

I give here a list of the articles obtained from one of these burial places, the "Lenoir Burial Pit":

One stone axe; forty-three polished celts; nine vessels of clay; thirty-two arrow-heads; twenty soap-stone pipes, mostly uninjured; twelve discoidal stones; ten rubbing stones; two hammer stones; one broken soapstone vessel; six engraved shells; four shell gorgets; one *Pyrula perversa* entire, and two or three broken ones; one iron celt; five very large copper beads; one lot of fragments of shells, some of them engraved; a few rude shell pins;

shell beads; a few small copper beads; specimens of paint and plumbago; three skulls.

I am inclined to believe that these mounds are the work of the Cherokees, but cannot give my reasons for this belief in this article. Somewhat similar burials found in Kentucky point to the region of the Ohio as the former home of the builders of the North Carolina and East Tennessee mounds. It is possible, therefore, that further research will tend to confirm the Cherokee tradition mentioned by old John Lederer.

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COLONIAL ORGANISMS.

BY CHARLES MORRIS.

(Continued from page 149.)

A CONTINUED review of the subject of animal colonization leads next to the Annelida and the Arthropoda as its most advanced instances. This progression, indeed, is not so strongly marked in the Annelida, which are usually not only distinctly segmented, but each segment is an almost complete individual. Each segment possesses its own nerve fibers and ganglion, its own muscles, its own limbs, frequently its own breathing organs, and, in a partial degree, its own circulation. The intestines of the several segments unite into a common intestine. Indeed this retention of individuality, in some cases, goes still further. There are existing worms which possess eyes in each separate segment. Thus the indications are very marked that the Annelid began life as a colony of budded individuals in which subordination of some of the life functions had taken place. This subordination is yet, in many instances, very slight, the only distinctly specialized segment being the head, with its mouth and sense organs. The loss of individual completeness is not nearly so great as in the members of the Siphonophora.

In its reproductive phenomena the family of segmented worms presents some striking evidences of a colonial origin. In certain instances the worm is born as an individual segment, and gains its mature state by subsequent budding. This is the case with the tape worm, in which the budding process continues indefinitely throughout life. Among the Chætopoda some very significant phenomena are exhibited. A single worm is divided into two through fission between two of the body segments, one of